REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 remain in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4, 8-9 and 13 have been amended. Prompt examination and allowance in due course are respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 24, 2003

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